

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01068 081224 Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01

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R 081115 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1068

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: POST- ELECTION PRESSURE ON DENKTASH

BEGIN SUMMARY: TURK CYPRIOT CIVIL SERVANTS' DECISION STRIKE, IF DEMANDS NOT MET, HIGHLIGHTS POST- ELECTION PRESSURE ON VP DENKTASH. WITH ASSISTANCE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT KUCHUK, COMMUNITY DISSIDENTS HAVE TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO DENKTASH, HANDLING HIM RARE POLITICAL DEFEAT. DENKTASH SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY MEETING IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE, BUT OVER LONG TERM WILL NEED INCREASED TURKISH GOVT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. TURK EMBASSY INDICATES NO INCREASE ENVISIONED THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY

1. TURK CYPRIOT CIVIL SERVANTS UNION HELD EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING MAY 6, APPROVING BY LARGE MAJORITY DECISION TO STRIKE IF ADMINISTRATION REJECTS THEIR WAGE
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01068 081224 Z

DEMANDS. NO TIME LIMIT SET FOR STRIKE. DECISION FOLLOWS IDENTICAL VOTE BY SCHOOL TEACHERS UNION AND WILL PROBABLY BE SUPPORTED BY TURKISH COMMUNAL CHAMBER EMPLOYEES AFTER SCHEDULED MAY 16 MEETING. ASSOCIATIONS SEEK COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (CURRENTLY PAID ON GREEK SIDE), NINE- MONTH RETROACTIVE PAY INCREASE, AND COVERSION TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES TO PERMANENT STATUS WITH SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER WAGES. UNIONS' DEMANDS SUPPORTED BY INFLUENTIAL KOKKINA FIGHTERS AND MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION (MOSTLY TCPA EMPLOYEES).

2. NEITHER DENKTASH NOR OTHER MEMBERS TCPA DENY WAGE DEMANDS JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, THEY STATE MONEY SIMPLY NOT THERE. GRANTING WAGE INCREASES DEMANDED WOULD REQUIRE ESTIMATED 40 PERCENT INCREASE IN TCPA BUDGET, WITH ALL ADDITIONAL FUNDS COMING FROM TURKEY . TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICER TELLS US THERE NO CHANCE ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE THIS YEAR. IN FACT, DEVALUATION TURKISH LIRA VIS- A- VIS CYPRUS POUND MEANS SUBSIDY WILL BE DECREASED FROM PLANNED 11.5 MILLION CYPRUS POUNDS TO APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION. SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SALARY LEVELS, DENKTASH WILL BE FORCED SCRAP THIS YEAR' S ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET. TCPA HOPES TURKISH GOVT WILL SEEK SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FROM PARLIAMENT TO MAKE UP SUM LOST THROUGH DEVALUATION. ACCORDING TURKISH EMBASSY, THIS WON' T HAPPEN, BUT PRESSURE MAY PAY OFF IN LARGER APPROPRIATION NEXT YEAR.

3. DENKTASH SUFFERED EARLIER DEFEAT WHEN PERSONAL SECRETARY LOST BID FOR PRESIDENCY OF KOKKINA FIGHTERS, DESPITE THINLY VEILED VICE PRESIDENTIAL BACKING. AS RESULT IMPROBABLE COALITION KUCHUK' S CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS WITH COMMUNITY' S YOUTHFUL LEFTISTS, AND POOR ORGANIZATION WORK BY DENKTASH STAFF, ELECTION WON BY INCUMBENT IRSEN KUCHUK (NEPHEW FORMER VICE PRESIDENT). PARTICULARLY GALLING FOR DENKTASH WAS ELECTION OF NACI TALAT -- MANAGER FORMER VP CANDIDATE MIDHAT BERBEROGLU ' S ABORTED CAMPAIGN AND ANATHEMA TO MAINLAND TURKISH OFFICERS -- AS KOKKINA FIGHTERS PRESS SPOKESMAN. KOKKINA FIGHTERS LOST NO TIME SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS (PARA 1).

4. POSSIBILITY EXISTS DENKTASH MAY HIMSELF HAVE INSTIGATED
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01068 081224 Z

DRIVE FOR WAGE INCREASES IN EFFORT FORCE TURKISH GOVT ANTE UP LARGER SUBSIDY. (TRUKSIH EMBASSY THINKS DENKTASH MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING DIVERT PRESSURES TO GOT BUT ALSO THINKS DENKTASH HAS BEEN UNDER REAL STRESS, PARTICULARLY IN LOSS OF KOKKINA FIGHTERS ELECTION.)

5. SINCE FEB ELECTION, DENKTASH HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASED

PRESSURE FROM ALL FACTIONS TURKISH COMMUNITY. TROUBLES
BASICALLY RESULT FROM TCPA' S CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF FUNDS.
HOWEVER. PERSONNEL REORGANIZATION (WHICH LARGELY BENEFITS
UPPER ECHELONS COMMUNITY' S CIVIL SERVICE), UNPOPULAR TAX
BILL AND DEBT LEGISLATION, AS WELL AS DENKTASH' S INCREASED
PERSONAL ISOLATION, HAVE ALL MADE VICE PRESIDENT MORE
VULNERABLE TARGET.

6. FORMER VICE PRES KUCHUK HAS EDITORIALIZED ALMOST
DAILY IN HALKIN SESI AGAINST DEFICIENCIES OF TCPA, CRITICIZING
EVERYTHING FROM DISTRIBUTION OF BOTTLED WATER TO (IMPLIED)
DICTATORIAL NATURE DENKTASH REGIME. WITH KUCHUK' S
ASSISTANCE, DISSIDENTS HAVE EXPLOITED LEGITIMATE WAGE GRIEVANCES
IN CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD POSSIBLY AFFECT DENKTASH' S HITHERTO
NEARLY UNCHALLENGED POSITION. IN OUR VIEW, DENKTASH SHOULD HAVE
NO DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING HIS RELATIVELY LIGHTWEIGHT OPPONENTS,
WITH TURKISH GOVT ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, IT POSSIBLE THAT
TURKISH GOVT, ALREADY SUSPICIOUS OVER DENKTASH ROLE IN
WAGE DISPUTE, MAY DECIDE LET COMMUNAL PRESSURE BUILD
UP TO INCREASE DENKTASH' S DEPENDENCE ON TURKISH ASSISTANCE
AND TO LIMIT VICE PRESIDENT' S FUTURE FREEDOM OF ACTION.
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